promoting exports and also for reduction in import duties on capital goods; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Industrial licencing norms for export production have already been relaxed. Similarly, import duty on certain selected capital goods for export production has been reduced.

Import of Penicillin V

1726. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of Penicillin V. is allowed for import on selected basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the importer has to lift certain proportion of indigenous material;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that penicillin V is not indigenously produced in the country;

(e) if so, how such a condition has been prescribed;

(f) whether his Ministry has got any legal undertaking or bank guarantee to enforce the condition; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (g) Import of Penicillin V is allowed in cases where the unit cannot use the alternate raw material, Penicillin G. M/s. Jagsonpal Pharmaceuticals have been allowed import of 75 MMU of Potassium Penicillin V First Crystals during 1988-89 with an obligation to lift indigenous material in the prescribed ratio. Penicilin V is not at present indigenously available. There has been a proposal for manufacture of Penicillin V by M/s. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals and accordingly the obligation of lifting of indigenous Penicillin V was imposed. As and when Penicillin V is indigenously available the unit would be required to lift the indigenous material and issue of further licence would be subject to such lifting therefore bank guarantee is not necessary.

FIEO's suggestion to provide concessions to boost export performance

1727. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has urged Government to remove hurdles and provide some legitimate concessions to boost export performance;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the suggestion of the FIEO;

(c) whether to boost export performance, Government had any proposal to provide any relief or concession to the exporters; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) FIEO has submitted a paper 'Mid-term Appraisal of Exports' containing various suggestions inter-alia raising the investment of SSI Units, lowering of interestrates, on export finance, disbursement of CCS/duty drawback through Commercial banks, strengthening of Indian Missions abroad and value addition norms of 100% EOUs etc.

(b) Government has recently reduced interest rates on pre and post shipment export finance. The ad-

vantage of disbursement of CCS and duty drawback through Commercial Banks is also being explored.

(c) and (d) Exporters are provided relief through CCS, duty drawback, REP Scheme, concessional export finance and Duty Exempted Import Licences like Advance Licence and Import Export Pass Book Scheme.

Enhancement of overdraft period

1728. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the enhancement of the overdraft period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 Noon

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT IN REPLY TO MOTION OF THANKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following message dated the 6th March, 1989, has been received from the President:-

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of the Rajya Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 21st February, 1989."

RESIGNATION BY SHRI MOTILAL VORA, MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that I had received a letter from Shri Motilal Vora, a Member representing the State of Madhya Pradesh resigning his seat in Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 8th March, 1989.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (1987-88) of the Brahmaputra Board and related papers

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Board, for the year 1987-88, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Board. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-7528/89 for (i) and (ii).]

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

I. Valuation Report (1987-88) of the Life Insurance Corporation Limited Bombay.

II. Report and Accounts (for the year ended the 30th June, 1988) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bombay and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighteenth Valuation Report of the Life Insurance Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-7491/89]